

ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE GAP ABOUT ORGANIC FARMING ASPECT, FACTS AND PRACTICES OF FARMERS OF RAMPUR DISTRICT OF UTTAR PRADESH

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Abstract: The study was undertaken to access the knowledge gap of organic farming practices of farmers of Rampur district. Out of six blocks, three blocks selected purposively for this study. Four villages selected from each block thus, total twelve villages were selected randomly. From these villages five organic practicing farmers were selected by simple random techniques. Thus there were total sixty numbers of farmers were selected. The data were collected with the help of structured interview schedule. From this analysis data, it was concluded that majority (43.34%) of farmers had high knowledge level of organic farming practices. The wide knowledge gap are in the areas of organic farming practices like use of HaNPV (46.66%), use of trichocards (42.50%), use of bio pesticides (37.50%), use of bio fertilizers (34.16%), use of NADEP compost (31.66%) and use of mechanical cultivation (29.16%). The overall knowledge gap of farmers in organic farming practices were 31.95 percent.

Keywords: Knowledge gap, Organic farming practices, Farmers, Rampur district

INTRODUCTION

In India, organic farming has received considerable attention and the Government of India emphasized to give boost to organic farming in rain fed areas and in the area of limited use of agricultural chemicals especially in North- Eastern states. It is estimated that there is around 76,00 ha of certified organic food at the farm level and 2.4 million ha of certified forest area for collection of wild herbs in India, but the actual area under organic is much more. (Kumar and Singh, 2009).

Organic farming is a production system which avoids or largely excludes the use of synthetic compounded fertilizers, pesticides, growth regulators and livestock feed additives. Organic farming does not imply the simple replacement of synthetic fertilizers and other chemical inputs with organic inputs and biologically active formulations. Instead, it envisages a comprehensive management approach to improve the health of underlying productivity of the soil air and water exist in a stage of dynamic equilibrium and regulate the ecosystem processes in mutual harmony by complementing and supplementing each other. Organic farming does not totally exclude the elements of modern agriculture. Present studies were undertaken to assess the knowledge gap of organic farming practices of farmers of Rampur district of Uttarpradesh.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Rampur district of Uttar Pradesh. Out of 6 blocks three blocks

namely Milak, Swar and Sahabad were selected randomly. Four villages selected from each block for this study. Thus total twelve villages were selected randomly from these villages. Five organic practicing farmers were selected by simple random sampling technique for the study purpose by proportional allocation method. Thus there were total sixty no of farmers were selected. To measure the knowledge gap of farmers they were asked to different question knowledge about concept of organic farming, use of bio fertilizers, vermicompost, use of bio pesticides, use of organic manure and crop residues, use of mechanical cultivation, use of HaNPV, use of NADEP compost and use of trichocards. The following device was developed to measure the knowledge of farmers of on the basis of organic farming practices.

$$\text{Knowledge} = \frac{\text{Total obtained knowledge scores}}{\text{Maximum obtained knowledge scores}} \times 100$$

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Knowledge level

Knowledge is defined as the set of concepts meanings, skilled and routines developed overtime by individuals and group through processing of information. Once the knowledge is required. It also brings about changes in overt behavior such as adoption, knowledge level of farmers refer to the information they posses in respect of organic farming practices.

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Table 1. Distribution of farmers according to their knowledge level about organic farming Practices.

Sl. No.	Category of Knowledge	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low	14	23.33
2.	Medium	20	33.33
3.	High	26	43.34

It is clear from table 1 that majority (43.34%) of farmers had high knowledge level of organic farming practices followed by 33.33 percent had medium and

23.33 percent had low knowledge level of organic farming practices. Similar findings were also reported by Sahu (2010) and Naik *et.al.* (2009).

Table 2. Knowledge gap of farmers on the basis of the organic farming practices.

Sl. No.	Organic farming practices	Maximum Knowledge Score	Total obtained Knowledge (Score)	Knowledge Gap (Percentage)	Rank
1.	Knowledge about concept of organic farming	120	99	17.50	IX
2.	Use of bio-pesticides	120	75	37.50	III
3.	Use of organic manure and crop residues	120	89	25.83	VII
4.	Use of mechanical cultivation	120	85	29.16	VI
5.	Use of Vermicompost	120	93	22.50	VIII
6.	Use of bio-fertilizers	120	79	34.16	IV
7.	Use of HaNPV	120	64	46.66	I
8.	Use of NADEP compost	120	82	31.66	V
9.	Use of trichocards	120	69	42.50	II
Over all knowledge gap		1080	735	31.95	

The data presented in table 2 reveals that overall knowledge gap of the farmers in organic farming practices were 31.95 percent respectively. As reported by the farmers, the major contributing practices for this knowledge gap were use of HaNPV (46.66%) followed by use of trichocards (42.50%), use of bio-pesticides (37.50%), use of bio fertilizers (34.16%), use of NADEP compost (31.66%), use of mechanical cultivation (29.16), use of organic manure and crop residue (25.83%), use of Vermicompost (22.50%) and knowledge about concept of organic farmers (17.50%). These finding were found to be practically supported by reports of Sahu *et.al.* (2010), Singh (2007) and Kirar and Mehta (2009).

CONCLUSION

It may be concluded that majority of farmers were found in the range of high level of organic farming practices. The wide knowledge gaps are in the areas of organic farming practice like use of HaNPV, use of trichocards, use of bio-pesticides, use of bio-

fertilizers, use of NADEP compost and use of mechanical cultivation. The farmers need to be made well aware about the use of such practices, so that the basic concept of organic farming and its application part could be familiar to the farmer.

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